



Strasbourg, 21 October 2008

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**European Network for the exchange of information between persons and entities  
responsible for the training of judges and public prosecutors**

**(LISBON NETWORK)**

**10<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

**Strasbourg, 30 - 31 October 2008**

Request for observer member status within the Lisbon Network from the Institute of  
Judicial Studies of Lebanon

Letter from the Lebanese authorities



Republic of Lebanon  
Ministry of Justice  
Institute of Judicial Studies  
BEIRUT – LEBANON

Ms. Margaret Killerby  
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs  
Council of Europe  
Strasbourg

Dear Ms. Killerby,

I have the honour to refer to the Council of Europe's establishment of the Lisbon Network in 1995 to enable the different judicial training bodies in Europe to become better acquainted with each other, exchange information on matters of common interest and to support, by means of this dialogue, the setting up or further development of judicial training facilities in the member States of the Council of Europe.

As you may know, Lebanon's judicial Training Institute (JTI) is the entry way for judges in Lebanon. The JTI operates within the Lebanese Ministry of Justice and, those recent law school graduates who wish to enter the judiciary must pass both oral and written exams to be admitted to JTI. JTI has a three-year programme for judge trainees and, upon successfully completing the JTI programmes, graduates assume their duties as judges.

The Ministry of Justice has determined that the JTI is in some need of improvement and, to that end, we have embarked on a multi-faceted plan to, *inter alia*, improve the selection and testing of applicants and modernise the curriculum. We have several non-Lebanese partners that we are working with to make these improvements.

In that regard, Ms. Killerby, we are greatly impressed with progress made by the Lisbon Network in establishing and disseminating best practices in judicial education. In light of the fact that Lebanon's legal system is similar to that of many of the Member States of the Council of Europe, I believe Lebanon in general and JTI in particular could benefit from bilateral contacts with the members of the Lisbon Network.

I am also cognisant of the fact that travel and other expenses to Lisbon Network events are to be borne by the Republic of Lebanon.

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In light of the above, I should be grateful if the Lisbon Network would allow Lebanon's JTI Observer status within your organisation. I am certain JTI will benefit from our cooperation with the Lisbon Network and am hopeful we will contribute to the mutual understanding of our fellow judicial training institutions.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



**President of the Institute Judicial Studies**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Mansour', is written over the typed name.

**Dr. Sami Mansour**